

## Import of poultry meat and products from areas in Hungary, Poland and France suspended

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (November 13) that in view of notifications from the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in Baranya County in Hungary and the WoÅ,ów District of DolnoÅłÄ...skie Region in Poland, and outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5 avian influenza in Landes Department and Allier Department in France, the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the above-mentioned areas with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that Hong Kong has currently established a protocol with Hungary for the import of poultry meat but not for poultry eggs. According to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong imported about 150 tonnes and about 3 480 tonnes of frozen poultry meat from Hungary and Poland respectively, and about 1 310 tonnes of chilled and frozen poultry meat and about 120 000 poultry eggs from France in the first nine months of this year.

"The CFS has contacted the Hungarian, Polish and French authorities over the issues and will closely monitor information issued by the WOAH and the relevant authorities on the avian influenza outbreaks. Appropriate action will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.